

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## REMARKS

Claims 1-48 and 50-60 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

### 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-16, 18-30, 48-49, 51, and 56-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,214 to Leather et al. (hereinafter "Leather").

Claims 17, 31-47, 50, 52-55 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Leather.

### Claims Rejected over Leather under §§ 102 and 103

**Claim 1** recites a system comprising [emphasis added]:

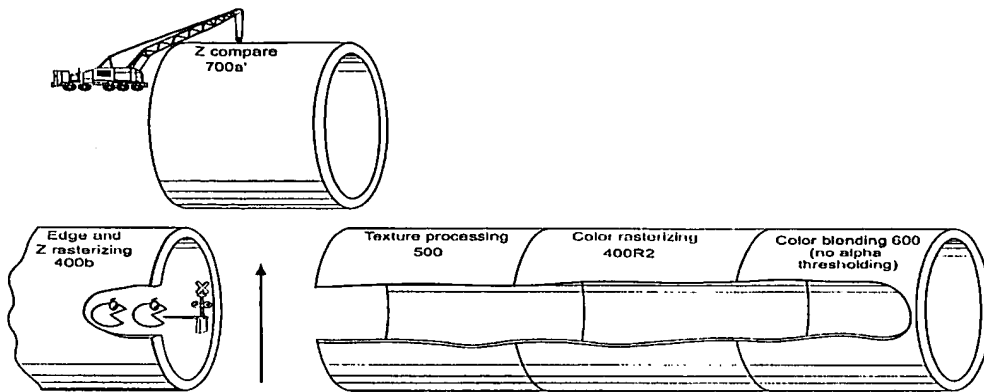
- a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline;
- an ***arbitrary ordering component*** operably associated with the stage assembly;
- a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components configured to process data from the stage assembly; and
- the ***arbitrary ordering component*** being configured to enable an ***arbitrary order of components*** of the rasterization pipeline to be specified for processing data from the stage assembly.

In making the rejection, the Office argues that Leather anticipates the subject matter of this claim. Specifically, the Office cites column 4, lines 11-38, of Leather in stating that Leather teaches "a method of dynamically reconfiguring a graphics pipeline with a *hidden surface removal phase* that may be placed at

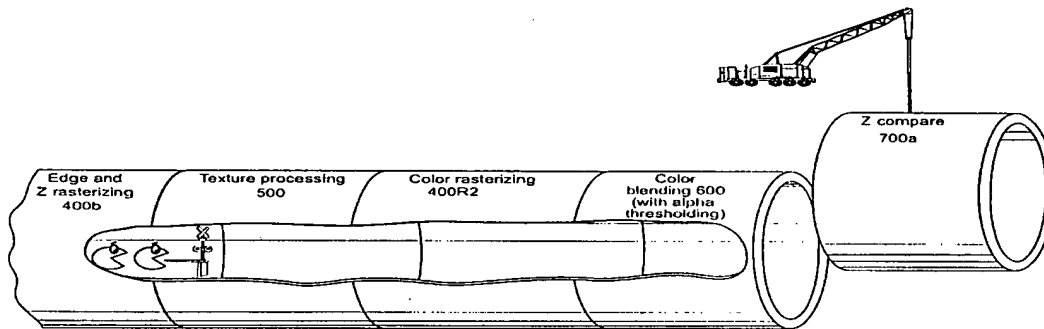
1 different locations within the pipeline depending on pipeline rendering mode (an  
2 arbitrary ordering component).” (emphasis added) The Office further describes  
3 the hidden surface removal stage in Leather as either being performed early or  
4 near the end of the pipeline. The Office also states: “Figs. 6 and 7 show the  
5 process of reconfiguring the graphics pipeline, wherein the stages of the pipeline is  
6 performed *without strict order*.” (emphasis added)

7 Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the Office’s rejection.  
8 Specifically, Applicant submits that Leather does not teach an “***arbitrary ordering***  
9 ***component*** being configured to enable an ***arbitrary order of components***”, as  
10 claimed. In Leather, only the *hidden surface removal phase* (Z compare) is placed  
11 at different locations within the graphics pipeline. (see e.g. Abstract, column 4,  
12 lines 11-38, column 11, lines 55-65, Figs. 6 and 7A-7F) Applicant submits that  
13 the placing of the Z compare phase at different locations within the pipeline in  
14 Leather does not disclose or suggest an “arbitrary ordering component”, as  
15 claimed. Perhaps more importantly, Applicant fails to see how placing only the Z  
16 compare phase (or component) at different locations within the graphics pipeline  
17 in Leather constitutes an arbitrary ordering of components when the order of the  
18 other phases (or components) in the pipeline remain fixed and non-arbitrary with  
19 respect to the Z compare phase. In fact, in so far as Leather teaches that *only* the  
20 Z compare phase is moved, it teaches directly away from the subject matter of this  
21 claim.

22 Applicant directs the Office’s attention to Figs. 7D and 7E of Leather  
23 (reproduced below), which illustrates the fixed, non-arbitrary ordering of pipeline  
24 phases 400b, 500, 400R2 and 600 with respect to the Z compare phase:  
25



**Fig. 7D**  
Reconfigure Pipeline



**Fig. 7E**  
Reconfigure Pipeline

As is readily apparent, merely placing the Z compare phase at different locations within the graphics pipeline in Leather fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of this claim. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Claim 7 recites a computing system comprising [emphasis added]:

- one or more processors;
- one or more computer-readable media for holding computer-readable instructions that are executable on the one or more processors;
- a graphics subsystem operably coupled with the one or more processors and comprising:
  - a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline;
  - an *arbitrary ordering component* operably associated with the stage assembly;
  - a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components configured to process data from the stage assembly; and
  - the *arbitrary ordering component* being configured to enable an *arbitrary order of components* of the rasterization pipeline to be specified for processing data from the stage assembly.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same argument as that in claim 1. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

As discussed above, merely placing the Z compare phase at different locations within the graphics pipeline in Leather fails to disclose or suggest an “*arbitrary ordering component* being configured to enable an *arbitrary order of components*”, as claimed. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

**Claims 8-14** depend from claim 7 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

1       **Claim 15** recites a system comprising [emphasis added]:

- 2
- 3       • a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to  
4       receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline;
  - 5       • an ***arbitrary ordering component*** operably associated with the stage  
6       assembly;
  - 7       • a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components  
8       configured to process data from the stage assembly, said plurality of  
9       components comprising at least one fog component, at least one  
10      alpha blending component, and at least one texture component; and
  - 11      • the ***arbitrary ordering component*** being configured to enable an  
12      ***arbitrary order of components*** of the rasterization pipeline to be  
13      specified for processing data from the stage assembly such that the  
14      alpha blending component need not be the last component of the  
15      rasterization pipeline to process the data.

16       In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same  
17      argument as that in claim 1. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

18       As discussed above, merely placing the Z compare phase at different  
19      locations within the graphics pipeline in Leather fails to disclose or suggest an  
20      “***arbitrary ordering component*** being configured to enable an ***arbitrary order of***  
21      ***components***”, as claimed. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is  
22      allowable.

23       **Claims 16-22** depend from claim 15 and are allowable as depending from  
24      an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
25      features which, in combination with those recited in claim 15, are neither disclosed  
26      nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one  
27      another.

28       **Claim 23** recites a three-dimensional, computer graphics system  
29      comprising a rasterization pipeline having multiple components, and means for

1 *routing pixel data to individual components of the rasterization pipeline in no*  
2 *particular fixed order.* [emphasis added]

3  
4 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same  
5 argument as that in claim 1. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

6 As discussed above, in Leather, only the *hidden surface removal phase* (Z  
7 compare) is placed at different locations within the graphics pipeline. Thus, the  
8 order of the phases (or components) in the graphics pipeline other than the Z  
9 compare phase remain *fixed* with respect to the Z compare phase. Thus, *routing*  
10 *pixel data to individual components of the rasterization pipeline in no particular*  
11 *fixed order* appears to be impossible in Leather. In fact, in so far as Leather  
12 teaches that *only* the Z compare phase is moved, it teaches directly away from  
13 “routing pixel data to individual components”, as claimed. Accordingly, for at  
14 least this reason, this claim is allowable.

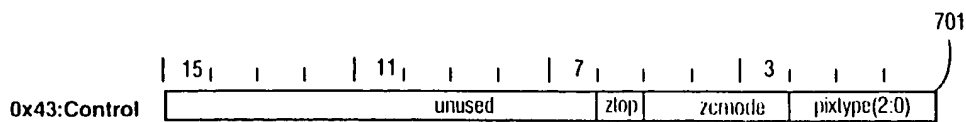
15 **Claims 24-30** depend from claim 23 and are allowable as depending from  
16 an allowable base claim.

17 **Claim 31** recites a three-dimensional, computer graphics system  
18 comprising a rasterization pipeline having multiple components, and multiple  
19 multiplexers for *arbitrarily routing pixel data* to individual components of the  
20 rasterization pipeline. [emphasis added]

21  
22 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that the  
23 multiplexers taught by Leather have inputs for receiving data from different stages  
24 of the pipeline and routing data to the appropriate stage depending upon the  
25 rendering mode. In this regard, the Office also inexplicably states “...the

1 multiplexers can arbitrate the inputs by a control register as shown in Fig. 10.”  
2 The Office then reasons it would have been obvious to utilize the method of  
3 Leather “such that other stages of the pipeline can be implemented with a second  
4 group of multiplexers (similar to the first group) having inputs receiving from  
5 previous stage (rasterization pipeline), and outputting the data to the stage  
6 assembly, since the reconfiguration arrangement as cited above can alter the order  
7 of the graphics pipeline during rendering time.” The Office then appears to  
8 suggest that the motivation to do so would be for the advantage of having  
9 multiplexers at inputs and outputs “to provide the flexibility of controlling the  
10 flow of the graphics pipeline.”

11 Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the Office’s rejection.  
12 Specifically, Leather fails to disclose or suggest “multiple multiplexers for  
13 *arbitrarily routing pixel data* to individual components of the rasterization  
14 pipeline”, as claimed. The Office appears to suggest that Leather does teach this  
15 element by stating: “...the multiplexers can arbitrate the inputs by a control  
16 register as shown in Fig. 10.” Applicant respectfully submits that the Office has  
17 erroneously associated the term “arbitrate” (which is not used in Leather in regards  
18 to multiplexers or Fig. 10), with “*arbitrarily routing pixel data*”, as that term is  
19 understood in Applicant’s disclosure. In this regard, Applicant directs the Office’s  
20 attention to column 13, lines 17-19, of Leather, which describes Fig. 10. Fig. 10  
21 and column 13, lines 17-19, are reproduced below:



**Fig. 10** Example Control Register

The multiplexers 776 are controlled by the state of a “z TOP” control bit within an example pixel engine control register 701 shown in Fig. 10.

As is readily apparent, this excerpt describing Fig. 10 indicates that Fig. 10 illustrates the control of multiplexers by the state of a control bit and does not disclose “arbitrarily routing pixel data”, as understood in the context of Applicant’s disclosure.

In view of the above discussion, the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness because Leather does not teach or suggest all the features of this claim. Hence, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable

**Claim 32** recites a system comprising [emphasis added]:

- a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline;
- an *arbitrary ordering component* operably associated with the stage assembly, the arbitrary ordering component comprising a first group of multiplexers and *a second group of multiplexers*;
- a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components configured to process data from the stage assembly; the first group of multiplexers having individual inputs received from the stage assembly and individual outputs provided to the rasterization pipeline; and



- the *second group of multiplexers having individual inputs received from the rasterization pipeline and individual outputs provided to the stage assembly.*

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Leather teaches a stage assembly, an arbitrary ordering component, and a rasterization pipeline. The Office then refers to Fig. 9 and column 13, lines 13-25, of Leather and states that it further teaches “an example implementation of z compare/depth Buffering Logic, which comprises a series of multiplexers 776 (a first group of multiplexers) that switch alternatively between the output of the edge and z rasterizer 700b and the output of the texture environment unit 600a (individual inputs) (col. 13, lines 13-25), and outputs to the next stage of the rasterizer pipeline at Zout(95:0) (individual outputs).” The Office then argues that the multiplexers taught by Leather have inputs for receiving data from different stages of the pipeline and routing data to the appropriate stage depending upon the rendering mode, and adds “... and, the multiplexers can arbitrate the inputs by a control register as shown in Fig. 10.” The Office then reasons it would have been obvious to utilize the method of Leather “such that other stages of the pipeline can be implemented with a second group of multiplexers (similar to the first group) having inputs receiving from previous stage (rasterization pipeline), and outputting the data to the stage assembly, since the reconfiguration arrangement as cited above can alter the order of the graphics pipeline during rendering time.” The Office then argues that the motivation to modify Leather with such a second group of multiplexers would be for the advantage of having multiplexers at inputs and outputs “to provide the flexibility of controlling the flow of the graphics pipeline.”

1 Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the Office's rejection.  
2 Specifically, Leather does not disclose or suggest an "*arbitrary ordering*  
3 *component*" or a *second group of multiplexers*", as claimed. Furthermore,  
4 Applicant reminds the Office that to support the conclusion that the claimed  
5 subject matter is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must  
6 expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed subject matter or the examiner must  
7 present a convincing line of reasoning as to **why** the artisan would have found the  
8 claimed subject matter to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the  
9 references.

10 Here, the Office's only attempt at such an explanation is to state that one  
11 would have been motivated because implementing a second group of multiplexers  
12 would offer the advantage "to provide the flexibility of controlling the flow of the  
13 graphics pipeline." This fails to explain *why* an artisan would have found this  
14 obvious, however, because the Leather reference already provides the flexibility of  
15 controlling the flow of its graphics pipeline. For instance, Leather states:  
16 "[a]reconfigurable graphics pipeline..." (Abstract), "...we provide a  
17 reconfigurable graphics pipeline" (column 4, lines 11-12), "[i]n accordance with  
18 another aspect of the invention, a method of dynamically reconfiguring a graphics  
19 pipeline..." (column 4, lines 32-33), "[y]et another aspect of the invention  
20 provides a method of synchronizing a graphics pipeline configuration ..." (column  
21 4, lines 52-54). Thus, it remains unclear why an artisan would be motivated to  
22 make the modification proposed by the Office.

23 In addition, the Office's stated motivation is too general and does not  
24 explain **why** this specific proposed modification would have been obvious because  
25

1 it could cover almost any alteration affecting the flow of a graphics outline. In this  
2 regard, the Office has provided a paper, available at the following link:

3 <http://www.uspto.gov/web/menu/busmethp/busmeth103rej.htm>

4  
5 that describes proper and improper rejections made under §103(a).  
6 Particularly instructive is an example that appears in Section V of the paper  
7 illustrating an improper §103(a) rejection which is based upon hindsight in view of  
8 a general motivation statement. This example is reproduced below in its entirety  
9 for the Office's convenience:

#### 10 **V. Examples of Improper Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103**

11 **Example 17: Improper rejection based upon hindsight - general motivation**  
12 **statement.**

##### 13 **a. The claimed invention**

14 The invention is drawn to a smart card containing a tracking  
15 mechanism, which tracks shopping preferences of consumers by recording  
16 the type, quantity, and dates of purchase for a pre-selected group of  
17 products. The smart card is useful in a system and method for introducing  
18 new and alternative products that are of the same type as products normally  
19 purchased by the shopper. The smart card records the shopper's purchases  
20 and submits an automatic notification to the shopper when a quantity  
21 threshold is achieved for the pre-selected products. This notification will  
22 encourage the consumer to consider alternative products by providing the  
23 consumer incentives, such as a pricing discount, to purchase an alternative  
24 product.

##### 21 **Claim 1:**

22 A method for using a smart card in a marketing analysis program designed  
23 to introduce new products, the method comprising the steps of:

24 storing product information on the smart card when said products  
25 are purchased by a consumer wherein said information including type,  
quantity and dates of the product purchased;

1 identifying for each product a threshold for each of said type,  
2 quantity and dates of products purchased;

3 determining an incentive for an alternative product based on said  
4 threshold; and

5 automatically notifying said consumer when said threshold is  
6 reached for a given product identified on the smart card and providing the  
7 consumer with said incentive, whereby the incentive encourages the  
8 consumer to consider alternative products.

#### 9 **b. Evidence**

10 Reference A discloses smart card that tracks consumer preferences by  
11 recording the type, quantity, and dates of purchase of pre-selected products to  
12 determine trends in consumer purchases. The smart card is periodically read by a  
13 scanner to determine its contents for market analysis. In return for using the smart  
14 card and participating in the marketing program, the user is provided with free  
15 product coupons for products that are normally purchased by the shopper.

16 Reference B discloses a traditional consumer incentive program that  
17 provides coupons for the purchase of named products based upon the consumer's  
18 purchase of those same products to promote customer loyalty.

#### 19 **c. Poor statement of the rejection**

20 Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over  
21 Reference A in view of Reference B. Reference A discloses the  
22 conventional use of a smart card to track consumer preferences and provide  
23 incentives. However, Reference A does not disclose the automatic  
24 notification to consumer providing incentives. Reference B discloses  
25 providing incentives to consumers to purchase the desired products. It  
would have been obvious to combine Reference A's smart card with  
Reference B's incentive to consumers because the combination would  
allow Reference A's smart card to be more efficient.

#### 26 **d. Analysis**

27 The motivation, improve efficiency, is *too general because it could cover  
28 almost any alteration contemplated of Reference A and does not address why  
29 this specific proposed modification would have been obvious*. Additionally,  
30 there is nothing in either of references that would suggest automatically notifying  
31 the consumer when reaching a threshold nor is there anything in either reference  
32 that would suggest the notifying step. Finally, although Reference B teaches a  
33 traditional coupon scheme to promote customer loyalty, there is no suggestion,

1 other than applicant's disclosure, to employ this scheme to promote the  
2 introduction of new and alternative products. **The rejection is improper.**

3 The Office's stated motivation, like the example provided above, is too  
4 general and does not address *why* the specific proposed modification would have  
5 been obvious. Accordingly, the Office's rejection is improper.

6 Furthermore, modifying the Leather reference by implementing a second  
7 group of multiplexers, as proposed by the Office, would appear to change  
8 Leather's principle of operation because in Leather, the pipeline is reconfigured by  
9 moving the Z compare phase in relation to the other phases (or components) in the  
10 pipeline. (see e.g. Abstract, column 10, lines 13-54, column 11, lines 56-65, Fig. 7  
11 A-E) Furthermore, this reconfiguration occurs after the pipeline is "flushed" by  
12 inserting a synchronizing token into the graphics pipeline that chases remaining  
13 pixels to the end of the pipeline. (see e.g. column 4, lines 52-67) Thus, the  
14 Office's proposed modification would appear to make it difficult at best to move  
15 the Z compare phase in relation to the other phases and would effectively prevent  
16 "flushing" because the token could follow a pixel out from the pipeline before  
17 reaching the end (if an "end" could be ascertained). Applicant respectfully  
18 reminds the Office that "[i]f the proposed modification of the prior art would  
19 change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then  
20 the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie*  
21 obvious." (MPEP 2143.01)

22 Finally, in so far as Leather involves moving the Z compare phase in  
23 relation to the other phases (or components) in the pipeline, it appears to teach  
24 away from a "*second group of multiplexers*", as claimed. Thus, it is hard to  
25

1 imagine any motivation for making the modification proposed by the Office when  
2 Leather teaches away from doing so.

3 In view of the above discussion, the Office has not established a *prima*  
4 *facie* case of obviousness and has made an improper rejection. Hence, for at least  
5 this reason, this claim is allowable.

6 **Claims 33-39** depend from claim 32 and are allowable as depending from  
7 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
8 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 32, are neither disclosed  
9 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one  
10 another.

11 **Claim 40** recites a computer system comprising [emphasis added]:

- 12
- 13 • one or more processors;
- 14 • one or more computer-readable media for holding computer-  
15 readable instructions that are executable on the one or more  
16 processors;
- 17 • a graphics subsystem operably coupled with the one or more  
18 processors and comprising:
  - 19 ○ a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured  
20 to receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization  
21 pipeline;
  - 22 ○ an *arbitrary ordering component* operably associated with  
23 the stage assembly, the arbitrary ordering component  
24 comprising a first group of multiplexers and a second group  
25 of multiplexers;
  - a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components  
configured to process data from the stage assembly;
  - the first group of multiplexers having individual inputs  
received from the stage assembly and individual outputs  
provided to the rasterization pipeline; and
  - the *second group of multiplexers having individual inputs  
received from the rasterization pipeline and individual  
outputs provided to the stage assembly.*

1 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same  
2 argument as that in claim 32. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

3 As discussed above, Leather does not disclose or suggest an “**arbitrary**  
4 **ordering component**” or a “**second group of multiplexers**”, as claimed.  
5 Furthermore, the Office has not explained why it would have been obvious to  
6 modify Leather with a second group of multiplexers, as proposed by the Office.  
7 Accordingly, the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and  
8 has made an improper rejection. Hence, for at least this reason, this claim is  
9 allowable.

10 **Claims 41-47** depend from claim 40 and are allowable as depending from  
11 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
12 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 40, are neither disclosed  
13 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one  
14 another.

15 **Claim 48** is amended and, as amended recites a method comprising [added  
16 language in bold italics]:

- 17
- 18 • receiving pixel data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline  
19 having a plurality of components;
  - 20 • routing the pixel data, using an arbitrary ordering component, to one  
21 of a plurality of rasterization pipeline components, wherein said  
22 routing can comprise routing the pixel data to an alpha blending  
23 component prior to routing the pixel data to another component of  
24 the rasterization pipeline, and
  - 25 • ***routing resultant data, using the arbitrary ordering component,  
back to a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages that are  
configured to receive pixel data.***

1 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same  
2 argument as that in claim 1. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

3 As discussed above, only the *hidden surface removal phase* (Z compare) is  
4 placed at different locations within the graphics pipeline in Leather. Applicant  
5 submits that the placing of the *hidden surface removal phase* (Z compare phase) at  
6 different locations within the pipeline in Leather does not disclose or suggest an  
7 “**arbitrary ordering component**”, as understood in Applicant’s disclosure.

8 Nonetheless, Applicant has amended this claim to include “**routing**  
9 **resultant data, using the arbitrary ordering component, back to a stage assembly**  
10 comprising a plurality of stages that are configured to receive pixel data”.  
11 Applicant submits that Leather does not disclose or suggest “routing resultant  
12 data”, as claimed.

13 Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, this claim is allowable.

14 **Claims 50-52** depend from claim 48 and are allowable as depending from  
15 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
16 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 48, are neither disclosed  
17 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one  
18 another.

19 **Claim 53** recites a method comprising [emphasis added]:

- 20
- 21 • receiving, in a stage assembly, pixel data that is to be processed by a  
22 rasterization pipeline having a plurality of components comprising at  
23 least a texture component, a fog component and an alpha blending  
24 component;
  - 25 • selecting a first multiplexer, whose inputs are received from  
different stages of the stage assembly, sufficient to route the pixel  
data to one of the components of the rasterization pipeline;



- processing the pixel data with the component to provide resultant pixel data; and
- selecting a *second multiplexer, whose inputs are received from different components of the rasterization pipeline, sufficient to route the resultant pixel data to the stage assembly.*

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same argument as that in claim 32. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

As discussed above, Leather does not disclose or suggest a “*second multiplexer*”, as claimed. Furthermore, the Office has not explained why it would have been obvious to modify Leather with a second multiplexer, as proposed by the Office. Accordingly, the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and has made an improper rejection. Hence, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

**Claims 54 and 55** depend from claim 53 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 53, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

**Claim 56** recites a method comprising [emphasis added]:

- associating a stage assembly with an *arbitrary ordering component*, the stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline, the *arbitrary ordering component* being configured to enable an *arbitrary order of components* of the rasterization pipeline to be specified for processing data from the stage assembly; and
- associating a rasterization pipeline with the *arbitrary ordering component*, the rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components configured to process data from the stage assembly.

1 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office proffers the same  
2 argument as that in claim 1. Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection.

3 As discussed above, merely placing the Z compare phase at different  
4 locations within the graphics pipeline in Leather fails to disclose or suggest an  
5 “*arbitrary ordering component* being configured to enable an *arbitrary order of*  
6 *components*”, as claimed. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is  
7 allowable.

8 **Claims 57-60** depend from claim 56 and are allowable as depending from  
9 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
10 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 56, are neither disclosed  
11 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one  
12 another.

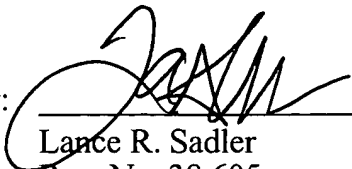
### 13 Conclusion

14  
15 Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for  
16 allowance and Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued  
17 forthwith. If the next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a  
18 Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the  
19 purpose of scheduling an interview.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 6/8/05

By:   
Lance R. Sadler  
Reg. No. 38,605  
(509) 324-9256